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Message Text

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66
ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

NSC-10 INRE-00 /055 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:OVARMSTRONG:CED
APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL, JR.
SCA/VO:JARIAS (SUBS)
---------- 074406
O P 212349Z DEC 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: APER, CVIS, PFOR (SHONK, SARA)
SUBJECT: CANCELLATION PRC VISA
REF: PEKING 1660

1. ACTING ASST. SECRETARY HUMMEL CALLED IN HAN HSU, ACTING CHIEF OF PRCLO, 2:15 P.M. DECEMBER 21 TO DISCUSS SHONK VISA PROBLEM. HAN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSELOR CHI CH'AO-CHU AND SECOND SECRETARY HSU HSIN-SHI. ARMSTRONG ALSO PRESENT.

2. HUMMEL EXPRESSED OUR PUZZLEMENT AND CONCERN OVER ALMOST MONTH'S DELAY IN AUTHORIZING VISA FOR SHONK AND THEN THE CANCELLATION OF THE VISA. (HE GAVE HAN COPY OF CHRONOLOGY OF THE CASE, TEXT BELOW.) HE NOTED THAT OFFICER WHO SHONK REPLACING HAD ALREADY LEFT PEKING AND THAT DELAY IN VISA ISSUANCE WAS CAUSING INCONVENIENCE TO USLO OPERATIONS. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH USLO WOULD BE DISCUSSING PROBLEM AGAIN WITH MFA DECEMBER 22, WE WANTED ALSO TO BRING MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF PRCLO AS IN-
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DICATION OF OUR CONCERN.

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3. HAN RESPONDED THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS AWARE THAT BROOKS HAD PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED MATTER TO CHI LI-TE, PRCLO WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE CASE AND IN PARTICULAR DID NOT KNOW WHY VISA HAD BEEN CANCELLED. WE SAID WE NEVERTHELESS

HOPED THAT HAN WOULD CONVEY OUR CONCERN TO MFA. HE SAID HE WOULD.

4. WE DO NOT KNOW IF PRCLO REPORT WILL REACH MFA BEFORE HOLDRIDGE'S APPOINTMENT WITH T'IEN PING DECEMBER 22. IN ANY EVENT, HOLDRIDGE SHOULD MENTION THAT DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN IS ILLUSTRATED BY FACT THAT ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY CALLED IN ACTING CHIEF OF PRCLO TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

5. IF IN THAT MEETING MFA LINKS DELAY AND CANCELLATION OF SHONK VISA TO B-1 AND "EQUAL LEVEL" VISAS, YOU SHOULD PROVIDE EXPLANATION AND ASSURANCES IN STATE 243429. IN ADDITION, YOU SHOULD (IF APPROPRIATE IN TERMS OF MFA STATEMENTS) NOTE THAT USLO OR DEPARTMENT IS ALWAYS PREPARED DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS WITH CHINESE, BUT THAT DELIBERATE WITHHOLDING OF VISA FOR OFFICER ASSIGNED TO USLO, WITHOUT PRIOR DISCUSSION, STRIKES US AS AN UN-USUAL WAY OF PROCEEDING.

6. BEGIN TEXT OF CHRONOLOGY HANDED HAN HSU:

VISA CASE OF SARA SHONK, OFFICER ASSIGNED FOR TEMPORARY DUTY TO U.S. LIAISON OFFICE IN PEKING

NOVEMBER 23

U.S. LIAISON OFFICE, ,Y NOTE, ASKED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO AUTHORIZE PRC EMBASSY KUWAIT TO ISSUE VISA.

DECEMBER 6

U.S. LIAISON OFFICE RAISED MATTER AGAIN AT A MEETING AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REITERATED REQUEST FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EARLY ISSUANCE OF VISA, WAS TOLD "NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN."

DECEMBER (?)

U.S. LIAISON OFFICE REQUESTED APPOINTMENT FOR DECEMBER 11 WITH AMERICAN/OCEANIA AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

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DECEMBER 14

U.S. LIAISON OFFICE REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO RESPONSE FROM MFA TO THAT REQUEST. STATE DEPARTMENT (MR. BROOKS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EA/PRCM) RAISED SHONK VISA MATTER WITH PRC LIAISON OFFICE (CHI LI-TE).

DECEMBER 18

MFA INFORMED U.S. LIAISON OFFICE THAT MFA WOULD AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF VISA.

DECEMBER 19 (?)

PRC EMBASSY KUWAIT ISSUED VISA.

DECEMBER 20

U.S. EMBASSY KUWAIT REPORTED THAT FIVE HOURS BEFORE SHONK'S SCHEDULED DEPARTURE, PRC EMBASSY KUWAIT CANCELLED VISA.

DECEMBER 21

U.S. LIAISON OFFICE REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT. LATE AFTERNOON, MFA INFORMED U.S. LIAISON OFFICE THAT APPOINTMENT ARRANGED FOR 10:30 A.M., DECEMBER 22 (HOLDRIDGE, DEPUTY CHIEF, WITH T'IEN PING, HEAD OF MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT).

END TEXT
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